

# County News and Views

SEPTEMBER 2002

## From the Office of Fifth District Supervisor Jerry Eaves

### Demolition Program Funded

Fifth District demolition funds of over \$175,000 have been allocated from Community Development Block Grant funds. It is important to the constituents of the Fifth District and me that unsafe and unsightly structures be eradicated. Demolition is the final tool available to Code Enforcement when property owners are unable or unwilling to bring properties up to minimum standards.

Over twenty-five properties in Bloomington, Muscoy, Arrowhead Farms and Little Third areas have been targeted for demolition. The estimated cost of these demolitions is \$138,000. The process that must be followed to ensure the rights of the property owner are respected mandates that the progress towards demolition is on the slow side.

What may seem like inaction is actually the laborious process that County government must follow when private property is involved. I am committed to ensuring that action is taken to provide a safe and healthy environment for the residents of the Fifth District.

Should you have any questions or comments related to the demolition program please contact Judi Battey at (909) 387-4040.

## Neighborhood Housing Services of the Inland Empire

NHSIE is dedicated to "Creating Quality Living Environments" in the Inland Empire. The organization is dedicated to making homeownership available to all people who live in this county.

The local Home Ownership Center delivers all of its services in English and Spanish. This year classes have served an overall population that is 80% "minority" and the homebuyers taught in 2001 were 78% "minorities". These statistics are gleaned from those taking classes who stated they were a race or ethnic minority other than white.

Some of the specific national goals include an emphasis on equity appreciation and wealth building. The goals also stress broader community revitalization and income diversity within the community. Focus is also on the implementation of the Homeownership Tax Credit proposed by the current federal administration and a continuation of support for the use of Housing and Urban Development Section 8 vouchers for home purchases.

California has nine of the ten least affordable housing markets in the nation and ranks last in national homeownership. Only 56% of Californians own their own home compared to 67% nationwide. More than one-half of the state's renters, and 91% of low-income renters, pay more than 30% of their income in rent. On any given day, there are more than 361,000 homeless persons in California.

The challenges to broadening homeownership in our area are many but NHSIE is experienced in providing homebuyer education, lending and single-family rehabilitation. Dawkins Hodges is the Executive Director of the local office located at 1390 North D Street in San Bernardino.

### CALENDAR

October 21, 2002 from 7:00 to 9:00 a.m.

14<sup>th</sup> Annual Red Ribbon Week Breakfast  
National Orange Show Restaurant

For more information and reservations please contact San Bernardino Communities Against Drugs at (909) 885-0509.

### COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER

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